

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 OPR-02 A-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 /066 W

----- 035695

R 260835Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3787

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHAOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0060

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ASEC ET

SUBJECT: SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONGEN COMPOUND

PAGE 2 RUFTEFA5060 C O N F I D E N T I A L

REF: ASMARA 0055 (DTG 221330Z JAN 76), ASMARA 0046 (DTG 221225Z JAN 76)

1. IN REPONSE TO MY JAN. 22 REQUESTS TO GETACHEW AND
TELAHUN FOR AN ARMED GUARD ON CONGEN COMPOUND (REFTELS),
A SQUAD OF SOLDIERS COMMANDED BY A LIEUTENANT, AND ACCOMPANIED
BY A MAJOR FROM THE 15TH BRIGADE AT EXPO AND ANOTHER MAJOR
FROM G-3, 2ND DIVISION, ARRIVED ON THE COMPOUND AND
DISCUSSED OUR REQUIREMENTS WITH ME, THEN REPORTED BACK
TO THEIR HQS, LEAVING THE SQUAD OF TWELVE, UNDER COMMAND
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OF THE LIEUTENANT ON THE COMPOUND. THE SQUAD

REMAINED OVERNIGHT AND THROUGH THE NEXT DAY, JAN 23,
UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON, WHEN THE LIEUTENANT AND ALL
BUT FOUR OF THE TROOPS DEPARTED. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE
HAD FOUR SOLDIERS ON 24-HOUR DUTY ON THE COMPOUND.
2. THE SOLDIERS BEING DETAILED TO THIS DUTY
ARE RECENTLY RECALLED OLDER VETERANS, MANY HAVING SERVED
IN KOREA AND THE CONGO. THEY ARE WEARING NEW UNIFORMS,

PAGE 3 RUFTEFA5060 C O N F I D E N T I A L
ARE GOOD-HUMORED AND FRIENDLY, AND SEEM TO TAKE THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY. THEY APPEAR TO BE
OPERATING IN RELIEFS OF TWO, WITH TWO ON DUTY, ONE AT
EACH COMPOUND GATE, AT ALL TIMES. ALTHOUGH I ORIGINALLY
REQUESTED THEIR PRESENCE ONLY AT NIGHT, I HAVE NOT
OBJECTED TO THEIR 24-HOUR PRESENCE. WE HAVE RESERVED A
SMALL AREA IN OUR MOTOR POOL FOR THEM WHERE THEY HAVE
SET UP PALLETS AND A TABLE AND CHAIRS. THEY ARE
PROVIDED WITH FOOD AND BEVERAGES REGULARLY BY
THEIR OWN 2ND DIV. MESS. THEY ARE ARMED WITH SINGLE SHOT
BOLT ACTION 7.92 MM MAUSERS (YUGOSLAVIAN). EACH CARRIES 40
ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION IN A LEATHER POUCH. SO FAR SO GOOD.
3. THE ARRIVAL OF THESE EPMG TROOPS ON THE COMPOUND HAS
HAD A SALUTARY EFFECT ON OUR CIVILIAN GUARDS. THE LATTER
HAVE BEEN STIFFENED AND OBVIOUSLY NOW TAKE THEIR DUTIES
MORE SERIOUSLY. IN VIEW OF THE TARGETTING OF AMERICANS
BY THE INSURGENTS AND RECENT SABOTAGE EFFORTS, I BELIEVE
THE PRESENCE OF THESE TROOPS WILL OFFSET TO SOME DEGREE
ANY UNRELIABILITY THAT MIGHT BE EVIDENCED BY OUR LOCAL

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GUARDS WHO, AFTER ALL, ARE ALL ERITREANS. THE PRESENCE
OF THESE GUARDS DIRECTLY INVOLVES THE EPMG IN THE
PROTECTION OF THE CONGEN. THESE GUARDS ALSO WILL
PRESUMABLY BEAR THE BRUNT OF ANY FIGHTING THAT MAY
PROVE NECESSARY RATHER THAN OUR MSG, OBSOLETE WEAPONRY
NOTWITHSTANDING, THUS HOPEFULLY PERMITTING US TO AVOID
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INVOLVEMENT IN ACTUAL MILITARY ACTIONS.
SHERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PHYSICAL SECURITY, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PROPERTY PROTECTION, PERSONNEL SECURITY, CONSULATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ASMARA00060
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760029-0904
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760123/aaaaatsa.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ASMARA 55, 76 ASMARA 46
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONGEN COMPOUND PAGE 2 RUFTEFA5060 C O N F I D E N T I A L
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ASEC, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006